

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 7 are independent.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 7 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 6, and to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at Figs. 10A and 10B, and page 9, lines 7-27. Claims 2 and 6 are canceled. Also canceled is claim 4. Claims 3 and 5 are amended for clarity.

No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references submitted in the February 3, 2009 Information Disclosure Statement.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over EP 677 498 to Guile; rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Guile in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,818,317 to Otaka; rejects claims 1, 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,432,918 to Paisley; rejects claims 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Paisley in view of Otaka; rejects claims 1, 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over either Guile in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,557,773 to Bonzo, or over Paisley in view of Bonzo; rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over either Guile in view of Bonzo or Paisley in view of Bonzo, and further in view of Otaka; and rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over either Guile in view of Otaka or Paisley in view of Otaka. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 7 are amended to recite additional features, as outlined above. For example, claim 1 recites "scraping the end surface of the honeycomb using the scraper, while the slide member is sliding away from the honeycomb carrier, to remove the slurry attached to the end surface of the honeycomb carrier." Claim 7 recites similar features. As amended, claims 1 and 7 require that when the honeycomb carrier is separated from the bottom of the reservoir tank, the scraper slides along the end surface of the honeycomb carrier while contacting the end surface of the honeycomb carrier. Also, claims 1 and 7 require that

the honeycomb carrier is separated from the bottom of the reservoir tank at the same time when the slurry attached to the end surface of the honeycomb carrier is removed by the scraper.

The applied references do not disclose or render obvious these new features as recited in claims 1 and 7. Thus, the applied references do not disclose or render obvious the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 7, and claims 3 and 5 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: June 22, 2009

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